

# 2000 Indiana Deer Season Summary



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## **Season Framework and Regulations**

### General

The 2000 Indiana deer hunting season was comprised of 4 segments: early archery (October 1 - December 3), firearms (November 18 - December 3), muzzleloader (December 9 - 24), and late archery (December 9 - January 7). This was the seventh year that the early archery season extended into and throughout the firearm season. This was the fifth year that the late archery season extended through the first Sunday in January rather than ending on the last day in December.

This was the fourth year that the crossbow was legal for hunting under an archery license by non-handicapped hunters. The crossbow was eligible for use only in the late archery season and only for antlerless deer. Special hunts were held at 4 military installations and at the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

The archery bag limit was 2 deer. Hunters could take 1 deer on a regular archery license and an additional deer on an extra archery license. Either archery license could be used to take an either-sex deer, but a total of one (1) antlered deer could be taken by archers on the two licenses. The gun bag limit was 1 antlered deer during the firearms season and 1 either-sex deer during the muzzleloader season. However, hunters could only take a total of one (1) antlered deer during the combination of the firearm and the muzzleloader seasons. A single firearms license was required to hunt with any or all shotgun, muzzleloader, or handgun during the firearms season, and a muzzleloader license (separate from the firearms license) was required to hunt during the muzzleloader season. The resident deer license fee was \$13.75 and the nonresident fee was \$120.75. Resident landowners and lessees who hunted on land they own or lease and gained agricultural benefit from this land were exempt from purchasing deer licenses.

### Antlerless Permits

For the last 17 years, antlerless deer could be taken during the firearms season by use of bonus county antlerless permits in addition to the above bag limits. Initially, the bonus county antlerless permits were limited to a specific quota for each county and were only valid for the specified county. One permit per hunter was available via a drawing. During the first years of the program, the left-over permits were destroyed. The program was liberalized in subsequent years. During the last year (1995), individual hunters could pick up multiple left-over permits. Left-over permits were available on a first come basis at one site in each specific county where the permits were valid.

The bonus antlerless program was revised in 1996 so that hunters did not have to apply through a drawing. 2000 was the fifth year of this modified antlerless bag limit and permit disbursement system. An unlimited number of permits were available at every deer license vendor statewide, and each permit could be used in any county in the state. Permits were available to both resident and non-resident hunters. Each permit was valid for 1 antlerless deer, and hunters were allowed to take up to 4 antlerless deer statewide. Hunters could not exceed individual county bag limits which ranged from 0 to 4. County bag limits were published in the Hunting and Trapping

Guide. Since 1993, the bonus county permits could be used during the muzzleloader and late archery seasons if they were not filled during the firearms season. In 2000, 14 counties had a bag limit of 1 and regulations which restricted the season of use for Bonus Antlerless permits to the last 4 days of the firearms season plus the muzzleloader and late archery seasons. One county had a Bonus Antlerless bag limit of zero (0).

The additional archery permit regulation which allowed hunters to take 2 additional antlerless deer with archery equipment in defined urban deer zones remained in place for a fifth year. Each deer required a separate additional archery license. The hunting season for urban deer coincided with the regular archery seasons, which meant that the total statewide archery bag limit remained at 4 deer within the urban deer zone.

### Number of Deer Harvested

A total of 98,725 deer was legally harvested in Indiana during 2000. This harvest was 1% less than the 99,618 deer harvested during 1999. Compared to 1999, the antlered buck harvest of 44,621 represented a 4% decrease from last year, and the antlerless harvest of 54,104 was up 2%. The decrease in harvest is the result of the Division's effort from 1994 - 1997 to reduce the statewide deer population and the effort in 1998 - 2000 to begin stabilizing the population by slightly reducing antlerless harvest.

### 2000 INDIANA DEER HARVEST

(Percent change compared to 1999 is shown in parentheses)

Season	<u>Number of deer harvested</u>		
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Early Archery (Oct. 1 - Dec. 3)	10,935 (+21)	10,520 (+4)	21,455 (+12)
Firearms (Nov. 18 - Dec. 3)	31,740 (-11)	35,998 (+2)	67,738 (-4)
Muzzleloader (Dec. 9 - 24)	1,760 (+10)	6,803 (-3)	8,563 (-0)
Late Archery (Dec. 9 - Jan. 7)	186 (-18)	783 (+17)	969 (+8)
Totals	44,621 (-4)	54,104 (+2)	98,725 (-1)

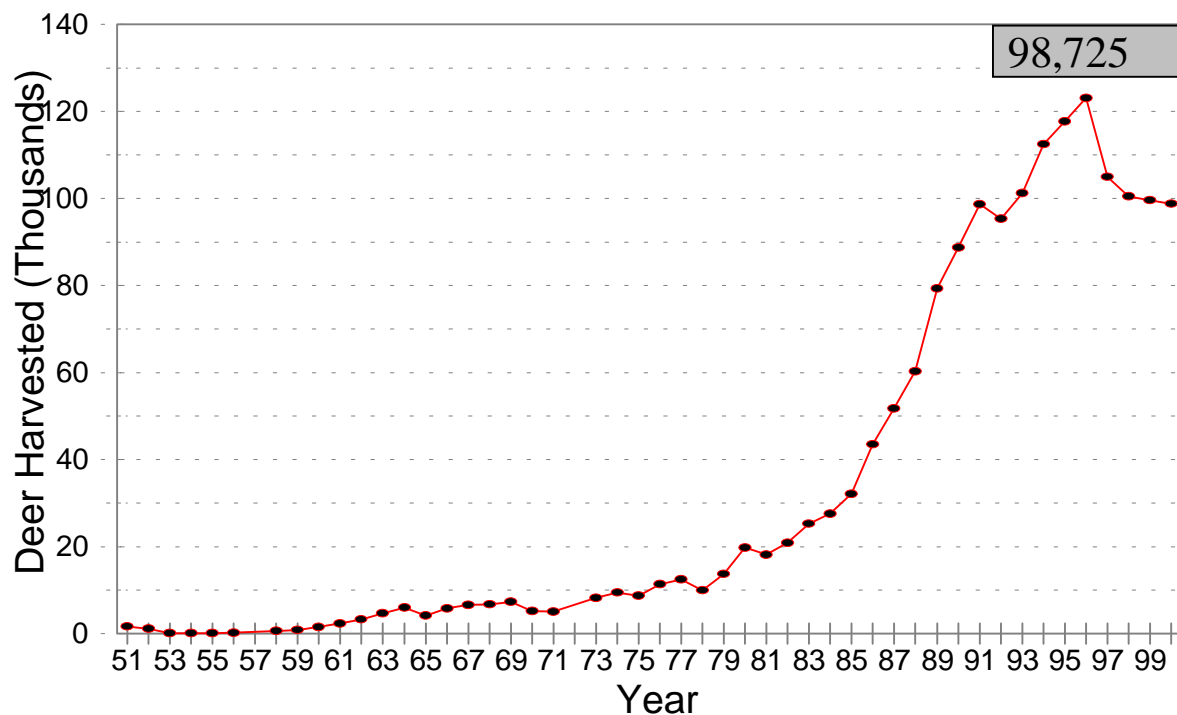
The early archery season harvest of 21,455 deer comprised 21.7% of the total harvest and was 11.6% higher than during 1999. The late archery season harvest of 969 deer comprised 1% of the total harvest and was 7.6% higher than during 1999. The combined early and late archery season harvest of 22,424 was 11.5% higher than the 20,119 deer harvested during 1999. Antlerless deer comprised 50% of the total archery harvest which was 4 percentage points lower than last year.

The total crossbow harvest for the season, including deer taken on handicapped hunter crossbow permits, was 281 animals compared with 224 for 1999. During the late archery season, the crossbow harvest was 54 deer compared with 50 for 1999.

The firearms season harvest of 67,738 deer was 4.0% lower than during 1999 and comprised 68.6% of the total harvest. Antlerless harvest (35,998) increased 1.6% for this season, and the antlered buck harvest (31,740) decreased 10.5%. Antlerless deer comprised 53% of the firearm season harvest compared to 50% in 1999.

The muzzleloader season harvest of 8,563 deer comprised 8.7% of the total harvest and was essentially unchanged from 1999. As in past years, a very large percentage(79.4%) of the muzzleloader season harvest was composed of antlerless deer.

## INDIANA DEER HARVEST, 1951-2000



The 2000 harvest represented a fourth consecutive decline in total harvest since the peak harvest in 1996. Approximately 1.66 million deer have been legally harvested during the past 49 deer hunting seasons.

### 2000 DAILY HARVEST DURING THE CONCURRENT FIREARMS AND THE LAST 16 DAYS OF THE EARLY ARCHERY SEASON

Date		Day	Antlered		Antlerless		Total	
			N	%	N	%	N	%
18	November	Sat	13,267	58	9,626	42	22,893	34
19	November	Sun	5,412	50	5,309	50	10,721	16
20	November	Mon	1,205	46	1,390	54	2,595	4
21	November	Tue	1,060	47	1,210	53	2,270	3
22	November	Wed	1,111	44	1,396	56	2,507	4
23	November	Thu	1,975	43	2,570	57	4,545	7
24	November	Fri	1,977	40	2,905	60	4,882	7
25	November	Sat	1,107	41	1,626	59	2,733	4
26	November	Sun	897	41	1,297	59	2,194	3
27	November	Mon	325	38	525	62	850	1
28	November	Tue	336	35	617	65	953	1
29	November	Wed	262	33	523	67	785	1
30	November	Thu	313	34	610	66	923	1
1	December	Fri	377	29	913	71	1,290	2
2	December	Sat	1,128	29	2,794	71	3,922	6
3	December	Sun	1,042	27	2,801	73	3,843	6
Totals*			31,792		36,114		67,906	

\* Totals differ from those in previous table because date of harvest is not known for some registered deer and this table includes deer from both the firearms season and 16 days of the early archery season.

### Age and Sex of the Harvest

The age and sex structure of the 2000 deer harvest was 45.2% adult males (antlered bucks), 32.4% adult females, 11.2% male fawns (button bucks) and 11.2% female fawns. About 61.8% of the antlered bucks and 39.2% of the adult does harvested during 2000 were yearlings (1.5 years old).

### AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE OF THE HARVEST, 1987-2000

Year	Adults		Fawns		Total (%)
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	
1987	29,530 (57)	11,139 (21)	6,164 (12)	4,945 (10)	51,778 (100)
1988	34,358 (57)	13,170 (22)	7,050 (12)	5,656 (9)	60,234 (100)
1989	40,503 (51)	19,464 (24)	10,737 (14)	8,614 (11)	79,318 (100)
1990	43,080 (48)	23,680 (27)	12,373 (14)	9,630 (11)	88,763 (100)
1991	41,593 (42)	31,211 (32)	14,626 (15)	11,253 (11)	98,683 (100)
1992	43,508 (46)	25,387 (27)	14,262 (15)	12,157 (13)*	95,314 (100)
1993	44,424 (44)	27,704 (27)	14,751 (15)	14,335 (14)*	101,214 (100)
1994	50,812 (45)	32,466 (29)	15,487 (14)	13,651 (12)*	112,416 (100)
1995	47,098 (40)	40,946 (35)	16,398 (14)	13,287 (11)*	117,729 (100)
1996	47,315 (38)	39,913 (32)	17,307 (14)	18,551 (15)*	123,086 (100)
1997	42,537 (41)	35,163 (34)	14,039 (13)	13,198 (12)*	104,937 (100)
1998	44,955 (45)	30,711 (31)	12,257 (12)	12,538 (12)*	100,461 (100)
1999	46,371 (46)	30,474 (31)	11,645 (12)	11,129 (11)*	99,618 (100)
2000	44,621 (45)	31,986 (32)	11,072 (11)	11,046 (11)*	98,725 (100)

\* Number of adult and fawn females is projected from the % fawns in the females aged at the biological check stations (not from the ratio of fawn does to fawn bucks).

### Distribution of the Harvest

The number of deer harvested in individual counties ranged from 61 to 2,713. Harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 48 counties and 2,000 deer in 8 of those 48 counties. For the fourth consecutive year, no counties harvested more than 3,000 deer. The five counties with the highest total harvest were Steuben, Dearborn, Switzerland, Noble, and Parke. The five counties with the lowest total harvest were Tipton, Benton, Marion, Hancock, and Rush. The antlered buck harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 2 counties vs. 4 counties in 1999, while the antlerless harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 15 counties vs. 15 counties in 1999. Antlerless deer comprised at least 50% of the total harvest in 69 of the state's 92 counties.

### Harvest by Type of Hunting Equipment

Five types of equipment were legal for hunting deer during 2000: bow, shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun, and crossbow. The above equipment types accounted for 22.4, 60.8, 14.9, 1.6, and 0.3 percent of the total deer harvest. Harvest by bow and crossbow increased 11%, 25% respectively from 1999, while harvest by shotgun and by handgun decreased 5% and 10% from 1999 levels. Muzzleloader harvest remained the same from 1999 to 2000.

## HARVEST BY TYPE OF HUNTING EQUIPMENT, 1994-2000

(Percent of total is shown in parentheses)

Number of deer harvested/Year

Equipment type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Bow	23,301 (19)	20,300 (19)	18,360 (18)	20,010 (20)	22,131 (22)
Shotgun	80,119 (65)	67,715 (65)	65,847 (66)	62,849 (63)	59,994 (61)
Muzzleloader	17,391 (14)	15,081 (14)	14,149 (14)	14,739 (15)	14,704 (15)
Handgun	2,275 (2)	1,841 (2)	1,886 (2)	1,796 (2)	1,615 (2)
Crossbow (all) (late archery)			219 (0) (39)	224 (0) (50)	281 (0) (54)
Totals	123,086	104,937	100,461	99,618	98,725

### Harvest by License Status

Licensed hunters accounted for 62% of the total deer harvest, a 2 percentage point decrease from 1999. Landowners and lessees who hunted on their own land without a license and military personnel on official leave status accounted for 38% of the total deer harvest. Of the deer harvested by license-exempt hunters, 98% were taken by landowners/tenants and 2% by military personnel on leave.

Table 5. Number of deer harvested in each Indiana county during 2000

No. Harvested				No. Harvested			
County	Antlered	Antler-less	Total*	County	Antlered	Antler-less	Total*
Adams	169	168	336	Lawrence	744	705	1,449
Allen	490	644	1,134	Madison	173	255	429
Bartholomew	345	451	796	Marion	57	70	127
Benton	69	36	104	Marshall	781	1,000	1,781
Blackford	121	208	328	Martin	648	795	1,443
Boone	157	156	313	Miami	456	562	1,019
Brown	524	353	877	Monroe	574	794	1,368
Carroll	341	415	757	Montgomery	419	557	975
Cass	515	597	1,112	Morgan	460	599	1,060
Clark	645	769	1,414	Newton	374	326	700
Clay	425	552	976	Noble	896	1,328	2,225
Clinton	145	178	323	Ohio	417	586	1,004
Crawford	711	604	1,315	Orange	817	1,119	1,936
Daviess	499	648	1,147	Owen	600	607	1,207
Dearborn	948	1,518	2,466	Parke	927	1,262	2,189
Decatur	192	246	438	Perry	920	466	1,386
Dekalb	703	872	1,575	Pike	688	768	1,456
Delaware	229	407	635	Porter	450	690	1,140
Dubois	653	811	1,463	Posey	661	561	1,221
Elkhart	500	692	1,191	Pulaski	488	551	1,039
Fayette	281	313	594	Putnam	774	975	1,749
Floyd	184	260	444	Randolph	219	312	531
Fountain	484	731	1,215	Ripley	663	1,051	1,714
Franklin	845	1,325	2,170	Rush	95	99	194
Fulton	548	1,032	1,580	Saint Joseph	463	469	931
Gibson	525	546	1,072	Scott	327	486	813
Grant	244	307	551	Shelby	111	164	275
Greene	810	838	1,648	Spencer	664	645	1,310
Hamilton	133	106	239	Starke	463	506	969
Hancock	88	52	141	Steuben	1,182	1,530	2,713
Harrison	792	1,041	1,834	Sullivan	693	710	1,403
Hendricks	180	192	372	Switzerland	1,042	1,252	2,293
Henry	182	261	443	Tippecanoe	453	748	1,201
Howard	145	98	243	Tipton	42	19	61
Huntington	427	579	1,007	Union	189	234	422
Jackson	736	1,111	1,847	Vanderburg	239	419	657
Jasper	497	483	979	Vermillion	290	414	704
Jay	311	402	714	Vigo	556	638	1,194
Jefferson	790	1,087	1,878	Wabash	529	447	976
Jennings	619	704	1,323	Warren	453	511	964
Johnson	198	193	391	Warrick	644	436	1,080
Knox	432	412	844	Washington	942	1,138	2,079
Kosciusko	919	815	1,734	Wayne	365	401	766
Lagrange	732	1,299	2,031	Wells	215	200	415
Lake	422	417	839	White	328	444	772
Laporte	733	944	1,677	Whitley	497	377	874

\* Totals may be off +/- 1 due to rounding during partitioning of harvested deer of unknown sex or county.